

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	PRM-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3631
INFO EU MEM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USOFFICE FRC FT LAUDERDALE PRIORITY
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000744

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2021
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, KDEM, VE
SUBJECT: MAYOR CAPRILES

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REF: A. 04 CARACAS 950
B. 04 CARACAS 2808
C. 05 CARACAS 3402

Classified By: Robert Downes, Political Counselor,
for Reason 1.4(b).

Summary

1. (C) The Ambassador and PolCouns met with Baruta Mayor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 20 MAR 2026
DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2009 200705281

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Henrique Capriles Radonski to discuss the Mayor's late March trip to Washington. Capriles had initially planned to travel later in the Spring, but the government has re-instituted criminal charges against him related to the April 12, 2002 incident at the Cuban Embassy, and may begin proceedings in April.

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End summary.

Background

2. (U) Henrique Capriles Radonski at 26, and then a Christian Democrat (COPEI) deputy, was elected as President of the National Assembly Chamber of Deputies (former lower house) on January 23, 1999. He was a thorn in the side of Chavista efforts to push through changes in the National Constituent Assembly, unsuccessfully pursuing legal action before the Venezuelan Supreme Court to block what he alleged were unconstitutional actions. He was an initial member of the new Primero Justicia political party. We was elected mayor of Baruta (one of five boroughs of Caracas) in August 2000 and re-elected in September 2004.

3. (C) The Capriles case goes back to April 12, 2002, when President Chavez briefly lost power. At that time an angry crowd gathered in front of the Cuban Embassy in Baruta looking for pro-Chavez leaders suspected of hiding inside (ref a). The crowd damaged Embassy vehicles and cut electricity and water lines.

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On March 16, 2004, Prosecutor Danilo Anderson (who was killed by a car bomb in November 2004) had an arrest warrant issued for Capriles on charges of "violating international principles, private violence and abuse of office" in connection with these events. After legal maneuvers (his lawyers at first succeeded in having the Supreme Court quash the arrest warrant, but a second court later re-issued it), Capriles presented himself to a Caracas court on May 11, 2004. After successfully arguing that Capriles was a flight risk for failing to answer summons issued in November 2002, and January and March 2003, Prosecutor Anderson had DISIP (Federal Political Police) take Capriles into custody. He was released from pre-trial detention on September 6 after four months in prison,

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The Case Continues

4. (C) Although the charges were dismissed subsequent to his release, the BRV has now re-instituted them and has announced its intentions to renew prosecution of Capriles in April.

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